

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 225265  
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:MDRAPER:CF  
APPROVED BY NEA:MDRAPER  
EUR/SOV - MR SHINN  
S/S-O:RCASTRODALE

-----119418 060148Z /73

O 060112Z SEP 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 225265

EXDIS// FOR AMBASSADOR TOON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, PINT, LE, SY, IS, UR

SUBJECT: SITUATION IN LEBANON

1. BEFORE DEPARTING FOR CAMP DAVID, THE SECRETARY DECIDED THAT HAL SAUNDERS NEED NOT REPEAT NOT TALK TO THE SOVIET CHARGE AS REGARDS THE DETERIORATING LEBANESE SITUATION BUT THAT YOU SHOULD WEAVE INTO YOUR OWN TALKS IN MOSCOW ABOUT CAMP DAVID OUR CONCERNS ABOUT THE LEBANESE SITUATION.

2. THE CONJUNCTION OF VARIOUS RECENT EVENTS--RISING ISRAELI CONCERN THAT THE SYRIANS IN LEBANON ARE READY TO DESTROY OR REDUCE THE MILITARY POWER OF THE INDEPENDENT MARONITE LEADERS BY MILITARY MEANS, THE VISIT OF SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM TO MOSCOW, THE NEW POSITIONING OF SYRIAN ANTIAIRCRAFT ARTILLERY DEFENSES IN LEBANON -- ALL MAKE FOR A TENSE SITUATION.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 225265

3. WE SUGGEST YOU WEAVE IN THE FOLLOWING MAJOR POINTS IN YOUR TALKS WITH THE SOVIETS.

-- THE LEBANESE SITUATION CONTINUES TO DETERIORATE. WE HAVE BEEN MAKING MAJOR AND SUSTAINED EFFORTS WITH LEBANON, SYRIA AND ISRAEL TO URGE RESTRAINT, BUT IT IS CLEAR THAT ISRAELI LEADERS ARE EXTREMELY SUSPICIOUS OF AND CONCERNED

BY SYRIAN ACTIVITIES AND ARE IN A MOOD TO BECOME MORE INVOLVED THAN THEY ARE NOW.

-- EACH TIME THE SYRIANS APPEAR TO RESPOND TO PROVOCATIONS AND AMBUSHES, THE RESULTANT PATTERN HAS BEEN A STEADY IMPROVEMENT OF THEIR MILITARY POSITION. THEY ARE NOW DEEPLY EMBEDDED IN PARTS OF THE CHRISTIAN HEARTLAND NORTH OF BEIRUT, AND THERE HAVE BEEN ONE OR TWO PARTICULARLY BRUTAL INCIDENTS RECENTLY. WE HAVE URGED THE SYRIANS TO DO EVERYTHING IN THEIR POWER TO BRING ABOUT A REAL CEASEFIRE AND A STANDFAST OF SYRIAN FORCES.

-- SOME OF THE INDEPENDENT MARONITE CHRISTIAN LEADERS MAY BE READY TO SPRING A NEW CAMPAIGN OF PROVOCATIONS ON THE SYRIAN FORCES IN EXPECTATION THAT THE SYRIANS WILL RESPOND IN SUCH A HEAVY WAY AS TO INVITE THE ISRAELIS TO COME TO THE ASSISTANCE OF THE CHRISTIANS.

-- IT IS AN EXTREMELY DANGEROUS SITUATION, AND WE HOPE THAT MOSCOW WILL DO WHAT IT CAN TO URGE RESTRAINT AND CAUTION UPON THE SYRIANS. FOR OUR PART, WE ARE CONTINUING TO DO OUR BEST TO KEEP ISRAELI CONCERNS UNDER CONTROL. WHAT IS NEEDED IS A PERIOD OF CALM AND REAL CEASEFIRE, SO THAT THE UNDERLYING CAUSES OF THE CONFRONTATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN TAKING PLACE IN THE PAST TWO

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 225265

MONTHS COULD BE DEALT WITH AND SOLUTIONS NEGOTIATED. CHRISTOPHER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 sep 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978STATE225265  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** MDRAPER:CF  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780362-0035  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:**  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780997/aaaadcru.tel  
**Line Count:** 95  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 3972fa56-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN SS  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 14 jul 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1530128  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SITUATION IN LEBANON  
**TAGS:** PEPR, PINT, LE, SY, IS, UR, XF  
**To:** MOSCOW  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/3972fa56-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014